

Message Text

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63/12

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SAB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 OES-03 AGR-05 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 302350Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

CINCSO

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126782

INFORM CONSUL

CORRECTED COPY (PARA 3 LINE 7)

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN, XM

SUBJECT: SELA

TOKYO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

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1. THE FORMATESTABLISHMENT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SISTEMA ECONOMICO LATINO AMERICANO--SELA) MAY BE ATTEMPTED LATE JULY AT A MEETING HOSTED BY PANAMA. SELA IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE SUMMIT MEETING OF

LATIN AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE IN CARACAS LATER THIS SUMMER. (PRESIDENTS PEREZ OF VENEZUELA AND ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO CALLED IN MARCH FOR A MEETING TO ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATION BY THE END OF MAY. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT A PRELIMINARY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE BASES FOR THE ORGANIZATION MIGHT BE HELD IN MID-JUNE, EITHER IN CARACAS OR PANAMA CITY, BUT WE HAVE NO CURRENT INFORMATION THAT THIS MEETING IS INDEED SCHEDULED.)

2. THE OUTLINE OF SELA IS STILL VAGUE, CENTERING ON PROMOTION, ENCOURAGEMENT, OR FACILITATION OF LATIN AMERICAN COOPERATION ON COMMODITY, TRADE, INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

3. SINCE A PRINCIPAL FEATURE OF THE SELA PROPOSAL IS THAT IT WOULD BE A TOTALLY LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD NOT INCLUDE THE U.S., WE HAVE MADE NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL PER SE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SOUGHT TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT OUR OPINION ON THE SELA PROPOSAL. BEGIN FYI: WE ARE FRANKLY SKEPTICAL OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SELA TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION, ESPECIALLY ON TRADE AND COMMODITY ISSUES, WHICH ARE GLOBAL IN SCOPE AND WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT IMPACT ON VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO SOLIDIFY LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT BEHIND SELA BY PUBLICLY TAKING A NEGATIVE OR OPPOSITIVE STANCE ON THE PROPOSAL. END FYI.

4. IF HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION ON SELA, YOU SHOULD RESPOND ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. THE U.S. HAS LONG SUPPORTED SOUNDLY BASED LATIN AMERICAN EFFORTS FOR COOPERATION TO AID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

B. SEVERAL OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED FOR THE SELA, INCLUDING THE PROMOTION OF LATIN AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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MULTINATIONAL FIRMS, THE ACCELERATION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION EFFORTS, AND THE CHANNELING OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE HEMISPHERE'S RICHER COUNTRIES TO THE LESS FAVORED NATIONS, ARE OBJECTIVES WHICH THE U.S. FULLY SUPPORTS.

C. WE WOULD HOPE THAT ANY NEW LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WOULD TRY TO WORK WITH THE U.S., ON A FAIR AND REASONABLE BASIS. WE CAN ENVISION COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN WHICH THE U.S. COULD PARTICIPATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

D. SOME OF THE SELA'S PROPOSED ACTIVITIES ARE IN THE FIELD OF RAW MATERIALS. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS EXPRESSED U.S. SUPPORT OF A PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE ON

RAW MATERIALS. SUCH AN EFFORT COULD FURTHER THE INTERESTS
OF ALL HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES. THE U.S. DOES BELIEVE THAT
UNILATERAL MEASURES BY RAW MATERIALS PRODUCERS OR
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATIONS FOR MANIPULATION OF SUPPLIES OR
PRICES WHICH EXCLUDE THE INTERESTS OR PARTICIPATION
OF CONSUMERS ARE OBJECTIONABLE AND NOT IN THE LONG
TERM INTERESTS OF EITHER PRODUCING OR CONSUMING
COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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